

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0325

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS OF JULY 1, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE JULY 1 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE NETHERLANDS REP, UK REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK, AND GDR REP OESER. BY PREVIOUS AGREEMENT, AN EXPERT FROM EACH OF THE PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. THERE WAS AN ACTIVE EXCHANGE ON THE SUBJECT OF FORCE DEFINITIONS. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WERE PRESUMABLY AWARE FROM UK REP'S REMARKS TO KHLESTOV IN THE INFORMAL SESSION OF JUNE 24 AND ON THE MARGIN OF THE PLENARY SESSION OF JUNE 26 THAT THE WEST HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE FORMULATION

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OF THE SUBJECT MATTER KHLESTOV HAD GIVEN

IN THE JUNE 24 SESSION. THEY WERE ALSO PRESUMABLY AWARE THAT UK REP, SPEAKING FOR WESTERN PARTICIPANTS, HAD ON JUNE 26 SUGGESTED THAT THE WESTERN AND EASTERN PARTICIPANTS NOT SPEND FURTHER TIME IN EFFORT TO REACH SOME COMMON DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO DO, BUT, INSTEAD, MOVE PRAGMATICALLY INTO A DISCUSSION OF FORCE DEFINITIONS, AND THAT KHLESTOV HAD ACCEPTED THIS POINT.

3. WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES AGAIN PRESENTED THEIR DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES, EXPLAINED HOW IT PROVIDED A PRACTICAL WAY OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR FORCES IN THE AREA, AND SAID IT COULD ALSO SERVE AS A BASIS FOR EXCHANGING DATA. KHLESTOV SAID THE WESTERN ATTEMPT TO DISTINGUISH AIR AND GROUND FORCES THROUGH USE OF A CRITERION BASED ON THE UNIFORM WORN BY THE FORCES INVOLVED WAS INADEQUATE. HE ASSERTED THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF DIFFERENCES OF ORGANIZATION OF THE FORCES OF BOTH SIDES, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD AGREE TO ASSIGN FORCES IN THE AREA TO GROUND OR AIR FORCES ACCORDING TO THEIR MILITARY FUNCTION AND MISSION. KHLESTOV PRESENTED A DEFINITION DRAWN UP ACCORDING TO THIS APPROACH. WESTERN REPS POINTED OUT THE DEFECTS OF THIS APPROACH AND CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR DEFINITION.

4. UK REP BEGAN SESSION BY REVIEWING THE AGREED GROUND RULES FOR DISCUSSION OF DEFINITIONS, THAT IT WOULD BE PARALLEL WITH DISCUSSION OF OTHER MAIN ISSUES, AND WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE OVERALL POSITION OF EITHER SIDE. HE REPEATED WESTERN DEFINITION USED IN INFORMAL SESSION OF JUNE 24 AND INVITED EASTERN COMMENT ON IT.

5. KHLESTOV CRITICIZED WESTERN DEFINITION BY THE CRITERION OF UNIFORM. HE ARGUED THAT, OWING TO THE DIFFERENT STRUCTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS, PERSONNEL OF VARIOUS ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA WHO PERFORMED SIMILAR FUNCTIONS WORE DIFFERENT UNIFORMS. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE WESTERN DEFINITION WOULD HAVE INEQUITABLE EFFECTS SHOULD THE WESTERN APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS BE FOLLOWED. IN THIS EVENT, ONLY GROUND FORCES WOULD BE REDUCED, BUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE GROUND FORCES ON EACH SIDE SUBJECT TO REDUCTION WOULD BE DIFFERENT. HENCE, IT

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WAS ONLY EQUITABLE AS WELL AS PRACTICAL THAT A FUNCTIONAL APPROACH BE FOLLOWED.

6. KHLESTOV THEN ADVANCED A PROPOSED EASTERN DEFINITION, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, OF WHICH FORCES SHOULD BELONG TO THE GROUND FORCES AND AIR FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS. HE SAID THAT IN THE OPINION OF THE EAST, THE FOLLOWING FORCES SHOULD BE CATEGORIZED AS GROUND FORCES: MOTORIZED RIFLE (ECHANIZED

INFANTRY); TANK (ARMORED); AIRBORNE; MOUNTAIN INFANTRY; MISSILE; ARTILLERY; AIR DEFENSE MISSILE FORCES; ARMY AVIATION; AND THEIR COMBAT SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE FORCES; AS WELL AS TERRITORIAL FORCES. KHLESTOV SAID THE FOLLOWING FORCES SHOULD BE CATEGORIZED AS AIR FORCES: FIGHTER; FIGHTER BOMBER; BOMBER; RECONNAISSANCE; TRANSPORT AVIATION; AIR DEFENSE MISSILE FORCES; AS WELL AS COMBAT SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE FORCES OF AIR FORCES AND AIR DEFENSE FORCES. FOR PURPOSES OF CHECKING TRANSLATION, KHLESTOV PROVIDED RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEXT (BELOW).

7. WHILE FULLY RESERVING THEIR POSITION ON THIS PROPOSED DEFINITION, ALLIED REPS POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS UNCLEAR THAT THIS DEFINITION WAS IN FACT COMPREHENSIVE AND WOULD INCLUDE ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE AREA EXCEPT THE NAVY. THEY QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WOULD PROVIDE A PRACTICAL WAY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR FORCES AND INSISTED THAT THEIR OWN DEFINITION WAS A MORE PRACTICAL ONE. KHLESTOV AGAIN CLAIMED WESTERN DEFINITION BY UNIFORM WAS INACCURATE AND INEQUITABLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT AN ADDITIONAL SESSION BE HELD ON THE DEFINITION TOPIC PRIOR TO THE INFORMAL SESSION SCHEDULED FOR JULY 8. ALLIED REPS AGREED TO ADDRESS DEFINITIONS IN THE JULY 8 SESSION, BUT POSTPONED UNTIL THAT TIME THE QUESTION OF WHETHER AN ADDITIONAL SESSION WOULD BE NECESSARY.

8. BEGIN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEXT:

DLYA TSELEI NASTOYASHCHIKH PEREGOVOROV K SYKHOPUTNYM VOISKAN I VOENNO-VOZDUSHNYM SILAM, NAKHODYASHCHIMSYA V RAIONE SOKRASHCHENIYA, OTNOCYATSYA:

SYKHOPUTNYE VOISKA: MOTOSTRELKOVYE (MOTOPEKHOTNYE),
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TANKOVYE (BRONETANKOVYE), VOZDUSHNO-DESANTNYE, GORNOPEKHOTNYE, RAKETNYE, ARTILLERIISKIE VOISKA, ZENITNYE RAKETNYE VOISKA, ARMEISKAYA AVIATSIYA, VOISKA IKH VOEVOGO OBESPECHENIYA I OBSLUZHIVANIYA, A TAKZHE TERRITORIAL'NYE VOISKA.

VOENNO-VOZDUSHNYE SILY: ISTREBITEL'NAYA, ISTREBITEL'NO-BOMBARDIROVOCHNAYA, RAZVEDYVATEL'NAYA, TRANSPORTNAYA AVIATSIYA, ZENITNYE RAKETNYE VOISKA PVO, A TAKZHE VOISKA BOEVOGO OBESPECHENIYA I OBSLUZHIVANIYA VVS I PVO.

END RUSSIAN TEXT. END SUMMARY.
REMAINDER OF REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.RESOR

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